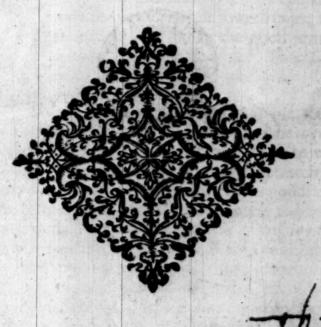
A

CHRISTIAN LETTER

of certaine English Protestants, vnfained fanourers of the present state of Religion, authorised and
professed in England: vnto that Reverend and learned man, M' R. Hoo. requiring resolution in certaine
matters of doctrine (which seeme to ouerthrow
the foundation of Christian Religion,
and of the church among vs) expresses are the contained in his sine

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A Christian Letter of certaine English Protestantes, vnfayned fauourers of the present state of religion, authorised and professed in England: vnto that Reverend and Learned man, Maister R. Hoo. requiring resolution in certayne matters of doctrine (which seeme to ouerthrowe the foundation of Christian Religion, and of the Church among vs) expression, and of the Church among vs) expression of Ecclesiasticals

Policie.

HEN men dreame they are assecpe, and while men sleepe the enemie soweth tares, and tares take roote and hinder the good corne of the Church, before it be espied. Therefore Wise men through silence permitt nothing looselie to passe away as in a dreame. Your offer then, Maist Hoo. is godly and laudable, to enforme

men of the estate of the church of God established among ws. For the Teachers of righteous things, are highlie to be commeded. And he that leadeth me rightlie to iudge of the church of God, is to be beloued of all men. Howbeit sometimes goodlie promises are meere formal, and great offers serue onely to hoodwinke such as meane well. And as by a faire shew of wishing well, our first parents were sowlie deceaued: so is there a cunning framed method, by excellencie of wordes, & intising speeches of mans wisedome, to beguile and bewitch the verie Church of God. And such as are vsed for this purpose come in sheepes clothing. For he translateth him self into an Angel of light, who blindeth all men with vtter darknes. When wee therefore, your louing cuntrymen synfaynedlie souoring the present state, and embracing from our heartes the Gospel of Christ, as it is preached and professed in England, being readic energy hower to give vp our

A CHRISTIAN LETTER.

lines for Gods glorie: and the honour of our Queene) having for goodlie a champion to offer combat in our defence, were made verie secure, and by the sweete sounde of your melodious stile. almost cast into a dreaming sleepe: Wee happelie remembring your Preface that there might bee some other canse, opened at the length our heavie eyes, and casting some more earnest and intentiue fight into your manner of fight, it feemed vnto vs that couertlie and underhand you did bende all your skill and force against the present state of our English church: and by colour of defending the discipline and gouvernement thereof, to make questionable and bring in contempt the doctrine and faith it felfe. For we faw the theme and the cause you have in hand, to be notable simples, whereof a skilfull populhe Apoticarie can readilie make some fine potion or sweete smelling ointment, to bring heedlesse men into the pleasant dreame of well-weening: while they closelie set on fire the house of God. And may wee not trulie fay, that under the shewe of inveighing against Puritanes, the chiefest pointes of popish blasphemie, are many times and in many places, by divers men not obscurelie broached both in Sermons and in Writing: to the great griefe of manie faithfull subjectes, who pray for the blessed and peaceable continuance of her most gracious Maiestie, and of the estate of the Church of I E s v s Christ; as it is nowe established among vs. And verelie fuch a thing offered it felfe vnto our eyes, in reading your bookes, and we had not skill howe to judge otherwise; of the handling of your penne and of the scope of your matter. Notwithstanding because rash judgemet may prejudice honest trauailes, and faithfull labourers may have their vnaduifed flippes, and we could not tell howe zeale, loue, or glorie might carie a man of such towardlie and excellent giftes, in the firste fliewing of him felfe to the worlde; or that an earnest striving & bending your selfe in heate of disputation against the one side, might dazell your eyes, and drawe your hande at vnawares to farre and too fauourable to the other side; or else peradventure we might mistake your meaning, and so wee should doe you wrong against our willes. We thought it therefore our parte, in regarde of our dutie to the Church; and most agreeing to charitie.

DIRECTED VNTO Mr Hoo.

ritie, both for your credit and our ease; in all christian loue to intreat you, that as you teder the good estate of Christes church among vs, and of thousands couerted to the gospel, you would in like publike manner (but plainly and directlie) shew vnto vs and all English Protestantes, your owne true meaning, and how your wordes in divers thinges doe agree with the doctrine effablished among vs. And that not onelie for avoyding of offence giuen to many godlie and religious Christians: but also that the Atheistes, Papistes, and other hereticques, be not incouraged by your so harde and so harsh stile (beating as it were, as we verilie thinke, against the verie heart of all true christian doctrine, profelled by her Maiestie and the whole state of this Realme) to despise and set light, by her sacred Maiestie, the reverend Fathers of our Church and the whole cause of our religion. Wee have made choyce therefore of a few principal things, which trouble manie godlie minded christians, who aduisedlie read ouer your bookes, that by the fincere answering and vpright clearinge of them, you might fatisfie vs all, both in them and in all the reft, and free your telfe from all suspition of falshoode or treacherie. and make vs able to give a reason of defence vnto all such as stumble at your writinges. And for your better ease herein, and our more readie satisfaction, we have compared your positions and affertions in your long discourses, vnto the articles of religion fett forth An. Dni 1562, and confirmed by Parliament the 13. of her Maiesties most blessed & joyfull reigne, and vnto the Apologies of such Reverend Fathers and chiefe pillars of our church, as from time to time fince the Gospell began to shine among vs, haue written and preached, and euerie way laboured to advaunce and defende the same, with the Liturgie & church governement established among vs. If you therefore good Ma. Hoo. will make it to appeare to the world, that in these pointes you are all one in judgement with the church of Englande, and that your fuch speaches wherewith your godly brethre are grieued, may beare such sence and meaning: or else (as every humble christian will doe) freelie and ingenuouslie acknowledge your vnwilling overfight, or at the least (which we vndoubtedly beleeue you will neuer bee able) shew plainlie and by good demonmonstration, that all our Reverend Fathers have hitherto bene deceaued; then shall we hold our selues very well contented and Satisfied. Hoping therfore of your charitable, direct, plaine, sincere, and speedie answere, we tender here our doubtes vnto your christian consideration, and craue your brotherlie resolution in manner and forme following.

r. The Deitie of the Sonne.

One foundation of christian faith professed by the English church is this aThere is one true and lining God. &c. And b Although we acknowledge the three persons to be God and Lord, yet the Godhead of the Father and the Sonne is all one. &c. Here we craue of you Maister Hoo. to explaine your owne meaninge where you fave, b The Father alone is originallie that Deitie which Christ

Artic I.de fide = in facrofandam Trinitatem.

b Quicunque vult, in the book of come mon prayer.

6 booke 5. pag. 113.

Socrat.lib.t.

cap.5.

originallie is not. Howe the Godhead of the Father and of the Sonne be all one, and yet originallie not the same Deitie: And then teach vs how farre this different from the herefie of Aring. who fayeth of God the Sonne: There was when he was not, who yet graunteth that he was before all creatures, of thinges which Were not. Whether fuch wordes weaken not the eternitie of the

Sonne in the opinio of the simple, or at the least make the Sone inferior to the Father in respect of the Godhead: or els teach the ignorant, there be many Gods.

2 The coetermitie of the

Another foundation of our beleef: 2The Sonne is the Worde of the Father, from everlasting besonne, & pro- gotten of the Father. &c. and the boly Ghost proholde the coeternitie of the Sonne with the Father by expresse litterall métion in the Scriptures found in these wordes: b The Lord bath poffeffed me in the beginning of his way. &c. And agayne: In the beginning was the Worde, and the Worde was with God, and the Worde was God. &c. And againe: d Glorifie mee thou Father with thine own felfe, with the glorie which I had with thee before the world was. And we holde the procee-

a Artic. 2.& 5.

b Prouer. 8. 20

c Ioh.1.1.

d Iohn 17.5.

ding

4 Joh. 15.36.

DIRECTED VNTO Mr Hoo. ding of the holy Ghost from the Father and the Sonne, by like expresse wordes of holy scripture: namelie, When the Comforter shall come, Whom I will fend unto you from the Father, even the firit of trueth, which proceedeth of the Father. &c.

Shew we pray you your full meaning where you fay: The coe. a Booke 1. sernitie of the Sonne of God with his Father and the proceeding of the spirit from the Father and the Sonne, are in scripture no where to be found by expresse litterall mention. Whether there bee not expresse litterall mention of these two pointes in the former alleadged places, and whether fuch maner of speeches may not worke a scruple in the weak christian, to doubt of these articles; or at the least so vinderproppe the popish traditions, that menne may the rather fauour their allegations, when they fee vs fayne to borrow of them.

fArtic. 6. Dediminis scripturis.

The Church of Englande professeth: Holye The holy fri-Scripture contay neth all things which are necessa- all thinges nerie to saluation, so that What soener is neither read cessarie to latin it, neither can be proved thereby, is not to be exacted of any man, that it should bee beleeved as an

article of faith, or (hould be thought to be required unto the necesfitie of Caluation. You on the other fide faye: b In actions of this b Broke z. kinde (speaking of direct, immediate, and proper necessitie final to faluation) our chiefest direction is from (cripture. and agayne: The insufficiencie of the light of nature is by the light of scripture fullie and perfettlie supplied. And in another place: " It sufficeth " Booke to that nature and scripture doe serue in such full sorte, that they both sointlie and not senerallie eyther of them be so compleate, that onto enerlasting felicitie we need not the knowledge of anie thing more then thefe two. &c. Where you feeme vnto vs, that although you exclude traditions as a part of supernatural trueth, yet you infer that the light of nature teacheth some knowledge naturall whiche is necessarie to saluation, and that the Scripture is a supplement and making perfect of that knowledge. Which being copared vnto pag. 127. where you affirme that the wante of moral 1m. 36. vertues exclude from faluation. And pag. 82. where you make Laft lin. faith hope & charitie, to be taught only by supernatural trueth.

It feemeth to vs that naturall light, teaching morall virtues, teacheth thinges necessarie to saluation, whiche yet is not perfect without that which supernatural knowledge in holy Scripture reveileth. Heere wee pray you to explane your owne meaning, whether you thinke that there be anie natural light, teaching knowledge of things necessarie to faluation, which knowledge is not contayned in holy scripture: if you thinke, no: How then fay you before: Not the scripture severallie, but nature and scripture iointlie, be compleate vnto euerlasting felicitie. If you say yea: how then agree you with the beleef of our Church: which affirmeth, that holy scripture contayneth all thinges necessarie to falvation? And here we pray you to shew vs, whether nature reach anie thing touchinge Christ, whether without or belide

him any thing be necessarie: whether that in him we be not a copleate. Lastlie, whether you meane that the knowledge of humane wisedome concerning God, have anie thinge not expressed in Scripture, or that morall virtues are any where rightlie taught but in holy scriptu, or that whersoeuer they be taught, they be of such necessitie. that the wante of them exclude from falvation, and what scripture approueth such a saying, or that cases and matters of salvation bee determinable by any other lawe then of holy scripture. And then tell vs howe you ynderstande these places following, and howe they agree with this your position of the light of nature and morall virtues: of man is instified by faith without the workes of the law. Neither is there falvation in anie other. For there is no other name which is ginen under heaven among st men by which we must be saued. d The naturall man perceaueth not the thinges of the spirit of God, for they are foolishnes unto him. Gc. c Except a man be borne againe, bee can not see the kingdome of God.

The Reverend Fathers of our church, to avouch e. Holy scripour forfaking of the Antichristian sinagogue of

a Coloff.2.10.

b Rom. 3.27. C Ad.4.13.

d 1 Cor. s. r.

e loh.3.3.

Rome,

Replie of Bb. Iewell against Harding, arti. 15 pag. 537.

b Reioynd. to Brift. replye by W.Fulk.pa.84.

c ibid. pag.99.

DIRECTED VINTO ME HOO. Rome, & cleaning to the scriptures of God, doe fo farre make the judgement of the scriptures aboue the Church, that with the auncient Fathers they fay: a In time of diffention it is most behoofefull for the people to have recourse unto the scriptures; and that wee may in no wife believe the Churches them selues, vnlesse they say and dos fuch thinges as bee agreeable to the Scriptures. b The triall of scriptures is necessarie to discerne the true church from all falle congregations, which all boast of the spirit of trueth, as much as the true church. And Only scriptures are a sufficient warrand to every Christian to trie What is the Word of God, and what is the worde of man. &c. But you

pag. 102.

caule

Mailt. Hoo. doe faye : d It is not the Worde of God which doeth or a Booke & possiblie can affure us, that we doe well to thinke it is his worde. And againe, & By experience we all know, that the first outwarde motive leading men fo to esteeme of the scripture, is, the authoritie pag. 146. of Gods Church. And a litle before: Scripture teacheth us that saving trueth which God hath disconered to the world by renelation; and it presumeth vs taught otherwise, that it felfe is dinine & facred. Here we beseech you Mai. Hoo. that if as our Reverend Fathers affirme, wee may noe otherwise beleeue the Churches them selves, but as they agree to the scriptures, & that by them the true church is to be discerned, &c. and that onely scriptu es, fufficientlie warrant the triall of Gods worde, what certaintie of faluation wee can haue, in anie prefuming or motive by the church, if the scripture canot assure vs that it is the word of God. Are not these contradictorie? Tell vs therefore if your meaning be not that the authoritie of the church must do that which the scripture cannot doe, namelie to assure vs that they are the word of God. And our reuerend Fathers fay, The church can not fo assure vs, vnlesse we trie it first to be the true church by the scriptures: Are not these contradictorie? They say: Onely Scriptures warrand vs what is the worde of god, you fay they cannot affure vs of the worde of God, but prefume vs to be taught that thinge otherwise: Are not these contradictorie? Haue we not here good

cause to suspect the vinderpropping of a popish principle cocerning the churches authoritie about the holy Scripture, to the disgrace of the English church? If not, then recocile your assertions vinto theirs, and shew mercie and trueth vinto our reverend. Fathers. And therewithal we pray you to expound either by experience or otherwise; Whether the worde of God was receaued in the world, and believed by men, by the virtue and authoritie of the witnesses, either Prophets or Apostles, or the holy church, or that such witnesses were not esteemed for the wordes sake: and the Church alway approved both by God & faithfull men,

as the fame was described, commended, and ordered by the rule of holy scripture. What thinke you of the 2 beautifull feete that bringe glad tydings, and of the Kings, who for reverence stopped their mouthes at it. The people pricked in harte at Peters preaching. And the men of Berea fearching the scriptures: whether that in all these, the testimonie of man, as Prophet, Apostle or church did authorise the word of God, that it was beleeucd? or the demonstration of the spiritual power of the word it selfe? And was not this the meaning of Saint Paule when rejecting letters of comendation, hee affirmeth that the Corinthians were his epiftle written in their heartes, which is vnderstood and read of all menne. &c. Doeth he not preferre the power of the worde, testifying of it selfe, by the conversion of the heart, before all other motiues, and by it he him felfe was authorised in their consciences, and not it by him.

Lastlie, shew vs where you finde that the scripture presumeth vs taught otherwise, &c. What thinke you? Is it of man, or by man? or of God, that it so presumeth: or doe not you presume against the worde of God, to set vp mans testimonie, when we know that the a testimonie of God is greater. When the sewes and the Gentiles did both oppose them selues against the gospel, what

a Efaic 52.6,14

b Ad. 2.37. and

17:11.

c 1 Cor. 2.4

d 1 Cor.3.1.24

c. Pfal. 19.75

2 1 John 3.9

6 Heb.4.13.

e Pfal. s. d & Cor. 10.3.4. DIRECTED VNTO Mr Hoo.

did it presume vpon? was it not of it selfe b the two edged sworde, pearching into the marrow of the bones: the rodde of iron to crush in peeces the Nations, and the d armour spirituall to bring in subjection every thought vnto the obedience of the knowledge of God?

a Artic ro. De libero arbitrio.

The Church of England professeth this groud 5 of fee of faith: 2 Without the grace of God (which is by (brist) preventing vs, that we will; and working togither while we will; we are nothing at all able to

pag. 60,61.

doe the workes of pietie which are pleasing and acceptable to God. You to our vnderstading, write cleane cotrarie: namelie, b there b Booke t. is in the will of man naturallie that freedome, whereby it is apt to take or refuse anie particular obiect, whatsoever being prefented vnto it. And a litle after: There is not that good which concerneth vs, but it hath enidence enough for it self, If reason were diligent to fearch it out. Heere we pray your helpe to teach vs: how will is apt (as you fay) freelie to take or refuse anie particular object what soener, & that reason by diligence is able to find out anie good concerning vs: If it bee true that the Church of England professeth, that without the preventing and helping grace of God, we can, will, and doe nothing pleasing to God. To

2 Ephe. 2.5. b 2 Cor. 3.5. c Phil. 2.13.

which beleefe of Englande the scripture accordeth, shewing that without the faid grace of god. we are dead in sinnes and trespasses: We are not a sufficient of our selves to thinke anie thing. c It is God which worketh in vs the will and the deede, e-

nen of his good pleasure. Shew vs therefore howe your politions agree with our church and the scriptures. If you say you vnderstande reason and will helpe by the grace of God, then tell vs how we may percease it by your writing: whiche putteth difference betwixt naturall and supernaturall trueth & lawes. If you meane reason vncorrupted, not respecting how in trueth we are by Adams fall perverted, may wee not suspect that your whole discourse is subtill and cunning, because you pretend the naturall way of finding out lawes by reason to guide the will vnto that which is good, pag. 59.62.63.&c.or at the least friuoulous,

feeing man hath no such reason without the grace of GoD, if you meane without the grace of God, and in the state of corruption, as in deed all men naturallie nowe are. Heere wee desire to be taught how such sayings ouerthrow not our English creed and the holy scripture in this matter, and therewithall shewe vo the true meaning of Saint Paule, and how he sitteth your discourse in this place, namelie when he saith. Rom. 8.7. The wise-dome of the slesh is ennimitie against God, for it is not subject vine the law of God, neither in deed can be.

of fayth

The Church of England beleeueth, 2 Onely for the meritt of our Lorde and Sauiour Iesus Christ, through faith and not for workes and our merites we are accounted righteous before God. You saye, hominis iustificatione.

layings:

& Booke 1. pag.82.

a Booke 1.

pag.95.

d Booke 5.

pag. 121.

b The way of Supernaturall duetie which to vs he hath prescribed. our Sauiour in the Gospell of Saint John doeth note, terming it by an excellecie the worke of God. This is the worke of God, that you beleeve in him whom he hath fente; not that God doeth require nothing at the handes of men unto bappines, fauing only a naked beleefe (for hope and charitie we may not exclude) but that without beleefe all other thinges are as nothing, and it is the ground of those other dinine virtues. And againe, The same things dinine lawe alfo teacheth, as at large we have shewed, it doeth all partes of morall duetie; wherevnto we all of necessitie stande bounde in regard: of life to come. And in another place, d Euery mans religion is in him felfe the well-fring of all other found and sincere verities, from whence both heere in some forte, and heereafter more aboundantlie their full ioy and felicitie arifeth: because while they line, they are bleffed of God, and when they dye, their workes follow them. And yet againe you fay, I will not dispute whether truely it may not be fayde, that pointent both weeping and fasting, are meanes to blott out sinne, meanes. Whereby through Gods unspeakeable and undeferued mercie, wee obtayne and procure to our selues pardon:

which attaynement unto anie gracious benefite by him bestowed, the phrase of antiquitie estable to expresse by the name of merite. Heere wee desire to be resolved how these your assertions can stande with the doctrine and beleef of the church of England; Eayth only instifieth. To which the holy Scripture accordeth,

Booke 5.

Galet.3.21.22

Mat.5.16. 6 Rom. 12.1.

c 1 loh. 4.11.19 d 1 Pet. 2.12.15 faving: 2 If there had bene a lawe that could have ginen life, surelie righteon (nes had bene by the law: but the scripture bath concluded all under sinne, that the promise by the fayth of fesus Christ might be given to them that beleeve. And againe: David

6 Rom. 4.6. declareth the bleffednes of the man vnto whom God imputeth righteousnes without workes. For if from sound and sincere virtues (as you fay) full ioy and felicitie arifeth, and that we all of necessitie stande bounde vnto all partes of morall duetie in regarde of life to come, and God requireth more at the handes of men vnto happines, then such a naked beleefe; as Christ calleth the worke of God: alas what shal we poore finful wretches doe, who can have no confidence in the fielh being farre from those sounde and sincere virtues, and from manie (that we say not all) partes of morall dutie, in such measure, as the holy, just & good law of God doeth require them; yea our verie righteous workes we finde to be stayned like a filthie cloth; when we copare them vnto that absolute righteousnes which is indeed pure & vnspotted before the eyes of God therefore we clayme nothing by any ductie we doe or can doe, or anie virtue which wee finde in our felues, but onelie by that naked faith which is the work of God in vs, and maketh vs beleeve in him whom he hath fente, and by his stripes onelie we hope to be healed. Tell vs therefore by founde and plaine demonstration what wee may trust to, whether the English beleefe be imperfect, without some necessarie additament: whether you thinke that not faith alone, but faith hope and love, be the formall cause of our righteousnes, whether a man that hath fuith can also doe all the works of the law. and so make up that which is wating in his naked faith : or that if he cannot, but falleth into finne seuen times, yea fometimes into great sinnes, whether his faith may not saue him. Lastlie,

whether there bee not other sufficient causes to induce a christian to godlines & honestie of life, fuch as is the aglorie of God our Father: bis great mercies in Christ: chis lone to vs: dexample to others, but that we must do it to merit or to make perfitt that which Christ hath done for vs. And lastlie, shew vs

that.

A CHRISTIAN LETTER. 11

that phrase of antiquitie whether it were in the Apostles time among the founder christians, or in what time immediatlie following; or doe you not closelie make the popish doctrine of meritt by workes at the least to be tollerable, to the dilgrace of our English creede?

- The virtue of workes.

a Artic 12.13-The church of England professeth, that Good workes, the frutes of faith and following the instified cannot abide the severitie of Gods sudgement, and that The workes which are done before the

b Booke t. pag.63.

c Ibid.pa. 68. d Booke a. pag. 122.

grace of Christ, are not onely not acceptable to God, but also have the nature of sinne. You say: b The most certayne token of evident goodnes, is, If the generall perswasion of all men doe so account it. And againe: Only mans observation of the lawe of his nature is Righteou [nes; only mans tran [greffion finne. 4 Gods verie commandements in some kinde as namelie his precepts comprebended in the law of nature, may otherwise be knowen then onelie by scripture, and that to doe them, how soener we know them must needes be acceptable in his fight. Here we desire to be instructed. howe the goodnes of these actions done by the light of nature. are to be vinderstoode, eyther simplie in them selves, as nature onelie declareth and teacheth; or as men following the light of nature, judge of them and so doe them: if you answere onelie as nature teacheth without regarde of man doeing according to nature, then can we not vnderstande your discourse, which seemeth to vs to teach, that by doeing such operations of goodnes as nature teacheth, though he have no further teachinge, it is righteousnes and pleaseth God. If you meane this second, then I pray you, in what sence can you call that righteousnes in man, which our Church calleth sinne: and doe you not establish the Romish doctrine of pura naturalia and workes of congruitie? And if that be true which you fay, that men doing fuch workes. be acceptable in Gods fight, doe you not make the Church of England to holde an errour, when they fay they are not acceptable to God. The church of England professeth, that Works

Workes of supercrogatio.

of Supererogation cannot bee taught without arrogancie and wickednes. And you fay: 6 God appro-Booke 2.

pag. 122.

ned

DIRECTED VNTO ME HOO.

med much more then he commaundeth. Open vnto vs then that feeing you feeme to teach that the order and course of all things Supernaturall, naturall, sensible and reasonable, is a divine lawe, and so by it he commaundeth accordinge to euerie kinde; and that in the former articles you appeare to vs to scatter the prophane graines of poperie, whether we may not justlie judge, that in thus speaking you sow the seede of the doctrine whiche leadeth men to those arrogant workes of supererogation. If not, shew your own meaning, and howe you esteeme of this Article of our beleefe.

a Artic. 15.

The Church of England holdeth, that a Christ o None free onely being the immaculate Lambe, was without sinne, and that we which are baptized and regene-

rated in bim, doe all offende in manie things. You fay: b Although b Booke s. We cannot bee free from all sinne collectivelie in such sorte, that no parte thereof (halbe found inherent in vs. yet distributinelie at the least all great and greenom actual offences, as they offer them [elnes one by one, both may and ought to be by all meanes anoy ded. So that in this sense to be preserved from all sinne, is not impossible.

Heere we demaunde to be informed, that if all offende in manie things, and to fay otherwise be a lye, as our English creede affirmeth, how your faying can be true, that it is possible to avoyde all great and greeuous finnes. And what manie things they bee whereof the scripture speaketh: Whether it meaneth not actual offences, great and greeuous; but that some may be excepted in regard of great finnes: or whether you meane, that it is possible for all christians to be preserved from all great sinnes: and if so. why should it not bee as possible; from all small offences: and if from small and great, why doe we not keepe our robe pure and without spot untill the comming of Christ, and so bee justified more and more by our works, as the popish Cannons teach: but pray by Christes commaundement euery day, Forgine vs our trespasses.

a Artic. 17. De Prædestinatione.

The Church of England beleeueth, that a Pre- 10 Predeftidestination unto life is the eternal purpose of God, whereby before the foundations of the world were layde, hee constantlie decreed by his counsell unto

Booke 5. pag-104. os unknowen to deliner from the curfe & destruction them whom he chose in Christ out of mankinde, & (as vessells made unto honour) through Christ to bring them to eternall (alnation. Wherevppon they who are indowed with fo excellent benefit of God, are called according to his purpose, and that by his spirit working in a fits time. But you Mai. Hoo. seeme to vs. to affirme contrarie, when you fay: 6 If anie man doubt how God should accept such prayers in case they be opposite to his will, or not graunt them, if they be according to that him felfe willeth: Our aunswer is, that such sutes God accepteth, in that they are conformable to his generall inclinasion, which is that all men might be faued: yet alwayes be grauntoth them not, for fo much as there is in God a more private occasioned will, which determineth the contrarie. Heere we begue your ayde to make manifest vnto vs, howe God eternallie predestinateth by a constant decree, them whom he calleth and faueth (as our Church professeth) and yet hath, as you say, a generall inclination that all men might be faued: Whether he forefaw not fomething that occasioned his will otherwise; so that he elected not all, but onely them whom he calleth and faueth, or that of his generall inclination he elected all men, but some more privatelie occasioned him in time to alter his will, and to refuse them; or that some men gaue God occasió that he saueth them. though he neuer decreed it before the foundations of the world. What meant the bleffed Apoltle where he fayeth: a Whom he predestinated them 2 Rom.8.30 also he called: and whom he called them also he iustified.&c. Is this to be vnderstoode of a constant decree, as we say, or of an inclination? Hee fayeth: b God worketh all thinges after the counb Ephe 1.1. fell of his owne will. Is this to be vnderstood, that vpon occasion sometimes hee either altereth his counsell, or decreeth fomething which hee had

not thought vpon before. Saint Iames faith, that

In God there is no variablenes nor shadowe of turning. Is not this more then a variablenes or

shadow of turning to incline one way, and vpon occasion to decree another. Doe not these wordes of yours give some place

vnto

c 1 Iam. 1.16

voto chaunce and fortune: Doe they not make Go p as a man not of an all-fufficient knowledge, wifedome, and counfell, but inclinable some one way, till by occasion he finde a more better way. Where is that God you speake of in your & first booke, of a pag. se. Whom and through whom and for whom are all things. And where is that law by which he worketh, which you there call aternall, and therefore can have no shew or colour of mutabilitie. Have we not cause to feare that the wittie schoolemen have seduced you, and by their conceited distinctions made you forget, That you are neither able nor Worthie to open and looke into the booke of Gods law, by which he guideth the worlde. And yet you will fay, There is in God an occasioned will. Good Mai. Hoo. helpe vs heere, and shewe vs howe we may thinke, that you incline not to the errour of poperie touching workes forfeene, and that you fauour our churches beleefe.

Artic. 19.De Ecclefia.

The Churche of Englande doeth confesse, a That the church of Christ is a companie of faith- church, and of full people, among whom the pure worde of God is the church of preached, & the Sacramentes rightlie administred according to Christes institution, &c. and that the church of Rome bath erred, not onely in maners & ceremonies, but also in matters of faith. Which by the Reverend Fathers of our Church is expounded thus: bWithout Christ the church is no church, neither hath anie right or claime without his promise; nor anie promise without his worde. The church of Rome being as it is now viterlie voyd of Gods word, is as a lanterne without light. We have departed from that church which they have made a denne of theeues, and in which they have left nothing found, or like to a church; & which the felues did cofesse to haue erred in manie things, even as Lot in olde time out of Sodom, or Abraham out of Chaldea, &c. The generall error and defection of the popilh Sinagogue fro Christ his true Church foreshewed in the fcriptures, is now manifest to the world

Bb. Iewell replie againftHarding. Artic. 3. pag.99. c ibid. Artic.6. pag. 366.

d Apolog.eccle. Angl.pag.191. Print. 1581.

Noel.confut. Dormanica. 1. Pag.57.

by diffention from Christ and his holy Apostles doctrine, and from the doctrine of the churches by the Apostles fouded. And for this cause, they call the hereste of that Romish church Apostasia Romanensium ab Ecclesia, The Apostasie of the Romish rabble fro the church. And they cal the Pope Apostasam, Antichristum, an Apostasa, Antichrist. And binde vp in one bundle Idolaters, superstitious persons, papistes and Atheistes; constantlie affirming, that hamong English christians no other thing is ment by the name of papistes, then heretickes and traytours, Antichristians and Apostasaes, enemies to God, their Prince, and their countrie. Now we finde in you these persons.

f Pulk.ad cauil.

T. Stapletorr.
ferè in princi.

g D. Whirgift pag. 178.

h W. Fulk. Reioynd to Brift. replie to pa. 272:

1Booke 3.

Booke 5. pag. 188.

Booke 5.

and their countrie. Now we finde in you these peremptorie affirmations: With Rome We dare not comunicate concerning fundrie her groffe grieuous abhominations, yet touching those maine partes of christian trueth, wherein they constantlie fill persist, we gladlie acknowledge them to be of the familie of Iefus Christ. And a little before: We hope that to reforme our seluce, if at anie time We have done amiffe, is not to fener our felnes from the church wee: Were of before. In the church we were, and we are fo fill. And in: another place you would have men, a To acknowledge that it is due to the church of Rome to be held & reputed a part of the house of God, and a limme of the visible church of Christ. And your principall reason seemeth to be because you say: b That whiche Separateth veterlie: That which catteth off cleane from the visible church of Christ, is plaine Apostafie direct deniall, otter rejection of the whole christian faith, as farre as the sonne is professedly different from infidelitie. Heere you feeme vnto vs to come foorth, as an other Elias, to bring againe the people, vnto the God of their Fathers. They fay that the church of Rome hath erred, not onely in manners, but also in matters of fayth, You; you call the backe and fay: Sundrie groffe and grienous abhominations. They fay that the church of Rome, as it is nowe, is veterlie voyde of Gods word; as a lanterne without light, and that it is a denne of theeues, in which they have left nothing foud, or like a church. but is like Sodom. &c. You call them backe, and fay: That they

haue:

have mayne partes of christian trueth wherein they constantlie persist. They affirme, and that constantlie, that there is a general errour and defection of the church of Rome foreshewed in the scriptures, and therefore cald them Apostataes, and matched them with Atheistes. seeing it is nowe made manifest to the world, that they are departed from the doctrine of Christ & his Apostles,&c. you call them backe and say, we gladlie acknowledge them to be of the familie of Iefus Chrift, and to be helde and reputed a parte of the house of God, and a limme of the vifible church of Christ. And therefore you are bolde to affirme, that we feuer not our felues from the church we were of before: In the Church we were & we are so still. We are here in a streight except you helpe vs out. For if we beleene you, we must thinke our reverend Fathers to have milledd vs all this while; either of malice, or ignorance; if wee beleeue them we must thinke that Mai. Hoo. is verie arrogant and prefumptuous to make him felf the onelie Rabbi. We pray you therefore to reconcile these two judgemets, that men fall not away to looke back into Egypt, or else explane your minde further, & shew vs some cleere demonstration of that you intende; whether you be not forrie that wee are departed from the vnitie of that Sea, or that you thinke they erre not in matters of faith; & that all these great disputes about the church and bloodie diffentions and conflicts come by ouerfight and too great zeale, and for want of knowledge in our Reverend Fathers, & in all those millions of learned men, that have franklie given their blood for the detection and departing from that church, as from Antichrist and an Apostata. And heere wee pray you to shew vs out of divine trueth, your rule to discerne a Congregation to bee a member of the visible Church: whether who foeuer holdeth anie one professeth trueth differing from infidelitie, may be reputed a member of the visible church, and whether you meane by infidelitie, nothing els but that which is not taught by the gospell of lesus Christ, and they which holde anie part of that which you call supernaturall trueth (that is, as we take it, of that trueth which men know no otherwise but by the worde of God) they are not fallen into an Apostasie, &c. And heere we craue your judgement of the Turke, how your rule fitRead Azoara 3.10.15.17. 20.29.45.56. teth them. For as wee thinke by reading his Alcoran, hee holdeth some mayne pointes of christian trueth, as namelie these: There is one God; and that he created all things without labour or Wearines: and that he preserveth the things created: faith is given and augmented of God. He forbiddeth the adoring of saintes and images: affirmeth God to hate and abhorre the arte of Magicke: and teacheth the resurrection of all men from the dead. Shewe vs. now whether the Turke be not of the familie of I Es vs Christ. Lastlie we pray you to open vnto vs, that seeing you saye the church of Rome is the house of God, whether a man continuing in that house, and neuer comming out to holde the true beleefe of Chrift, as we doe in England, but renouncing and perfecuting it to the death, whether fuch a one may be faued: if yea, why need we feuer our felues to fo great trouble from her groffe and grieuous abhominations, if they bee not fuch as can extinguith our faith to our destruction. If no, why doe you not ioyne with our Reverend Fathers, to abandon that house where there

is no faluation. Of Gods house it is said: It is the grounde & pillar of trueth. The habitation of God by his spirit: and the glorious rest of Christ. In which God loueth to dwell, and wherin he hath delight, and the same hee will blesse in victualles. Priestes and Saintes. So that such as be planted in that house, shal florish in the courts of our God, they

1.Tim.3.15.

Ephe. 2,224

Efai 11.10.

Pfal. 132.13,14

Pfal.93.13.

shall still bring forth fruite in their age. &c. Shew vs wee pray you, whether these thinges may bee applied to the church of Rome rightlie and essentiallie, and what comfort wee may have by departing from her communion; if thee be a parte of the house of God.&c. and these things we pray you to averre, not by humane witnesse, but by that which commeth down fro

heaven. So did Elias.

a: Of prea-

Againe out of this article arifeth another noe fmal scruple, where our church constantlie affirmeth, that a The visible church is that cogregation of faithfull people wherein the pure worde of God is preached. Wherevpon the Renerend Fathers of aur church publickely teach, that b The true prea-

a Aruc 19.

b Whitgift pag. 81.

ching

Bb.of Lincoln s.fermen vpon Matth. 13.3.

- d Id.fermo T. vpen Rom. 1.
- a Id. Sermo I. Pag. 4.5.6.

F Ephe. 3.7. Colof. 1.28.

ching of the word is an effential note of the church: For which cause they interpret the parable of the feede, in this forte: God is the husbandman, the Preachers of the worde are the seede sowers, the feede is the worde of God, the grounde is the hearts of men, &c. And Therefore Christ did fende his Apostles to preach the Gospell, that thereby they might be brought to the beleefe of the Church. And To this preaching he annexed such force of his holie spirit, that it had greater strength and authoritie, then all the eloquence, then all the wisedome, then all the learning, then al the pollicie and power of the worlde: and that not onely in the Apostles, but also in the Preachers, who have restored the pure light of the Gospell in these latter dayes, enen in those countries, whose Princes and people were professed adner faries therof: vnto which accordeth the holy scriptures calling this preaching of gifte of the grace of God, Sto admonishe every man, and to teach every man in all Wisedome, that Wee may present enery man perfect in Christ Jesus. Which

thinges maketh vs much to muse what you meane where you fay, h Sith speach is the verie image whereby the minde and Soule h Booke so of the speaker conveyeth it selfe into the bosome of him that beareth. We can not chuse but see great reason, wherefore the worde that proceedeth from God, who is in him felfe very trueth and life, should be (as the Apostle to the Hebrewes noteth) linelie and mightie in operation, sharper then any two edged sworde. Now if in this and the like places, we did concease that our owne fermons are that strong and forcible worde, should we not even heereby imparte even the most peculiar glorie of the worde of God, unto that which is not his worde? For touching our sermons, that whiche giweth them their verie being, is the will of man, and therefore they oftentimes accordinglie taste too much of that overcorrupt fountaine, from which they come. Heere Mai. Hoo. we are hampered with your words, because they seeme to vs contrarie to the judgement of our church. We therefore defire you hartilie to refolue

A CHRISTIAN LETTER.

folue vs, what you meane in this place by sermons: whether it be not all one with that our Fathers call preaching of the word, consisting in teaching and exhorting by the worde of God; secondlie, what you meane by the being of a sermon, whether the Logicall and Dialecticall frame by which men contriue their

a Ecclef. 13.8.

matter in such and such a forme: or that by the gift of the grace of God, waying and searching and sitting togither many sentences, they seeke out pleasant wordes & enery right writing and faith-

full wordes, and so veter bin their doctrine, integritie, gravitie, and the wholesome worde which can

not be reproved. If you meane the former, then everie declamation and formal oration in the schooles, may be called sermons, for these are framed of the meere witt of man: if you meane this latter, then we thinke you teach contratie to our church & the holy scriptures. You say our sermons are not that stronge and forcible worde: They saye, it is an essentiall note of the true church, to have true preaching of the worde: and namelie, the preaching of the pure worde of Goo, and that this hath such a force as no eloquence, wisedome, learning, pollicie, and power of the worlde can match. You fave the witt of man giueth our fermons the verie being. They fay, God sent his Apostles: that the Preachers are the feede fowers, and the feede is the worde of God, and that this is done by the gift of the grace of God. Heero we befeech you to shewe the just harmonie of your wordes and theirs, and therein to teach vs by founde demonstration, that a man can preach the pure worde of God by his owne naturall witt, without a gift supernatural of the spirit to give him vtterance and to speak the word as he ought to speake. If all that a man preach be the pure worde of God, what derogation is it to call fuch a mans fermons or preachings the strong and forcible word. In euerie being there is (as you schollers teach) the matter and the forme; and that which lovneth these togither, is the efficient. Vnto which of these will you applie the witt of man, if you fay to the matter, then our church is against you, and sayeth it is the pure worde of God: if to the forme, as, interpretation, doctrine and exhortation, then the holy scriptures doe tye vnto the

E Rom. 13. 6.

b a Pet. 1.30.

€ 1 Cer.13.4.

2 Rom: 10. 15.

e Ephc. 4.8.11.

DIRECTED VNTO M' HOO.

the gift of the spirit, saying: *That wee have diuers giftes, as the gift of prophecie, teaching, exbor
tation, and no b scripture is of anie prinate interpretation. If you make it the efficient, then the
scripture saith: There are diversities of giftes, but
the same spirit, and there are diversities of administrations but the same Lord, and there are diversities of operations, but God is the same which worketh all in all. No man can preach except he bee
sente. When he ascended, he gave giftes vnto men:
Here we pray you to teach vs how your speaches.

consent to these testimonies of our church and holy Scripture; or may you not meane that the Sermons of manie nowe a dayes. who in stead of the pure word of God, doe most curiouslie bring. into the pulpitt, Poetts, Philosophers, Rhetoricians, Philitians, Schoolemen, and what soeuer, either by finenesse of witt, or helpe. of arte, they thinke may appeare fine & smooth to their hearers. and winne praise to them selves; may you not meane, I say, that fuch our fermons have their being of the meere witt of man; or doe you thinke that the fermons of our Reuerend Fathers, and more stayed divines, which are verie warie, that in all their fermons, whatfoeuer they speake, may be the true sense of holie Scriptures, and according to the proportion of faith; feeing they agree not with the familie of Ielus Christ that is at Rome, are not therefore the strong and forcible worde of God. And heere. we pray you to teach vs, whether that all doctrine, interpretatio and exhortation which is truelie and meerelie the natural meaning of holy scripture be not the worde of God, or that the word! is onelie in the letter of the text, as of Hebrewe and Greeke, or, if you will truelie translated: and which of these hath the word. of God, he that alleadgeth the wordes as did the Tempter, or he that alleadgeth the true meaninge, as did our Saviour Christ, Mat.4.6.10. Lastlie, shew vs that if all our sermons bee of the witt of man, and none the stronge and forcible worde of God, whether Romi'h Babilon may not chalendge our church to wante one effentiall marke, as preaching the pure word of God?

And whether it be possible for the witt of man to give beeing

who graunteth that the worde of God is not only in writing but in preaching, in Confels or Doctors: Because Christ saith, Hee that beareth you, bea-

reth mee.

W.Fulk. replie to Brift rejoind. pag.99.

a Artic.33.

22 Of the Mi-Gers office.

The Church of England affirmeth, that a It is not lawful for anie one to take to him felfe the office of preaching publikely or administring the Sacramentes in the church, except hee be first lawfullie called, and sente to doe the sethinges. And heerevpon our Reverend Fathers doe not only not defende nor byfe anie reasons at all to prooue that women may baptize, and therefore would not haue the booke of comon prayer, touching baptisme in private to be understood, to permitt women to baptize: but also costantlie affirme, that God and well ordered churches forbidd Women to dispence that holy misterie. But you Mai. Hoo. haue another kinde of determinatio, where you

b D. Whitgift pag. 5 16. c Ibid.pa. 504. 793-

d Gervase Bab. vpon Gen. cap. 17. ver. 7. pag-121.

niste-

Booke (. pag 228.

€ Ibid. 340.

say, eMinisteriall power is a marke of separation, because it senereth them that have it from other men, and maketh them a speciall order, confecrated unto the service of the most highest in thinges Wherewith others may not medle. And in another place: There is an errour which beguileth many, who much intangle both themselues and others, by not distinguishing services, offices, and orders ecclesiasticall: the first of which three, & in parte the seconde, may be executed by the laytic, whereas none have or can have the third but the cleargie. From the whiche Cleargie you separate Catechiftes, Exorciftes, Readers, and Singers, &c. And in another 8 place you feeme to mainteyne & defende the practife of those churches, which (necessitie requiring) allowe baptisme in private, to be administred by Women; affirming elswhere h That diuers reformed churches doe both allow and defende that kinde of Baptisme. Heere we defire to knowe what you meane by mi-

2 Thi.pa. 140.

nisterials power, whether you take it activelie, as that everie minister, or all Ministers have power to make an order consecrated to the service of God; or passivelie that by their calling they are made to have the authoritie and power of a Minister, or that you vinderstand by it the formall cause of their ministerie, by which they differ from all other orders, or that you meane the holy vinction and character, which the church of Rome giveth in their

a Heb. 5-4. No man taketh this honour to himfelf, but he that is called, &c. consecration of priesthoode. And this wee desire, because we finde our church and Reverend Fathers, speaking like to a holy scripture, to vse plaine, good and sensible termes, to note out the difference of a ministers estate from other mens: and yours seemeth to carie another kinde of stile more besitting the glorie of the Romish character, then the simplicitie of our ministerie. Our church saieth, they must bee called that preach publicklie: you say, a Catechist (or whom wee finde in basicient time to have bene such as Clemens and Origine in Alexandria, as to whom the people came to heare the preaching of the word

b Euseb book 6.

of God) is none of the order of the Cleargie; meaning, as wee think, without this ministerial power. We pray you the to shew vs, whether you meane by ministerial power, Cleargie, or order, that which our church meaneth by calling: if you doe, then we see not how you and they agree; that you allow a Catechist, which is an office, to preach the worde, which is not of the Ecclesiasticall order, and as we say, hath no calling therevnto, and our church faieth, that it is not lawfull, &c. Againe, our Church faieth, that it is not lawfull to administer the Sacramentes without that calling: and that God and well ordered Churches forbidd Women to baptize: you (as wee thinke) contrarie to our church, maintaine such churches as allow the private baptisme by Women in case of necessitie: and you saye, divers reformed churches allow and defende such baptisme. Heere wee intreate you to declare the agreement of these sayings : and whether because you say that the speciall order (you speake of) is consecrated vnto the service of the highest in thinges wherewith others may

16

may not medle : your meaning be, that lay people in case of neceffitie, may medle with those thinges which our church faieth is not lawfull without calling, or that because you would have the ministerial power to be a marke and character, you give libertie to preaching & baptizing, as to certaine feruices: and that the character and indeleble order, hath nothing to it felfe peculiar but the making of the body of Christ in the Sacrament, and offering him vp in facrifice to his Father, that the laitie, women, and catechift may not medle with that. And heere wee defire to vnderstande whence you fett that worthie distinction, the ignorance whereof beguileth manie; and that you would declare the fame by holy scripture, & bring vs one pregnant proofe to shew the errour of our church in affirming preaching and ministring without calling, to be evnlawfull or elfe declare the exception either by scripture, or by some order or interpretation published by our church; or some of our Reverend Fathers, which also may have their harmonie with the fayings of the Reuerend Fathers by vs before rehearfed. And laftlie, whether that you in these three places are not cotrarie to your felf, or that you make: not a deluding proposition, which contayneth a generall prohibition without limitation, which yet is not generall but must. have exception. And if you place Readers as distinct from cleargie, what may we thinke you esteeme of our reading ministers; are they no cleargie men?

84 Of the Sa-

It is an Article of our faith, that a The Sacramentes instituted of Christ, are not onely markes of christian profession, but rather certagne testimonies and effectuall signes of grace and of the good will of God towards vs; by which hee doeth worke invisiblie in vs: and doeth not onelie stirre vp, but also consirme our faith towardes him selfe. Which by the reverend Fathers of our Church is interpreted thus: Sacraments are visible wordes, seales of righteousnes, and tokens of grace. The soule of man of not the creature of bread or water recease the grace of God. of a. The grace of God is not in the visible signes but in the soule. The substance of all

Sacramentis.

Angl.cap. 10.

o Defense of the Apolo 2 part. pag. 204.

d Ibid. pag. 134

Sacra-

DIRECTED VNTO M HOO.

Sacramentes is the worde of God; which S. Paule calleth verbum reconciliationis, the worde of Attonement : this Worde is the instrument of remiffio of sinne. The Sacraments are the seales affixed vnto the same: the Priest is the meane. And speaking of all the faithfull to bee one bodye, all endewed with one spirit, they further fay: "This marvelow conjunction and incorporation is first begonne and Wrought by faith, &c. Afterward the same corporation is affured unto us and increased in our bap-

e Repli. to Hard. aufw. by I. Iew. Bb. of Salif bur. Artic. 1. pa. 36.

therefore must dailie proceede forwarde, that we may grow vnto a perfect man in Christ: Therfore hath God appointed that the Same incorporation should bee often renewed and confirmed in vs by the vie of the boly misteries; wherein must bee considered, that the faid holie misteries doe not beginne but rather continue & confirme this incorporation. Heere wee demaunde howe it may appeare vnto vs that you broach not a new doctrine divers and cotrarie to our beleefe in Englande. When you fay that The Sa- Booke s. cramentes chiefest force and virtue consisteth in this that they are heavenlie ceremonies which God hath fanctified and ordayned to be administred in his church. First as markes to know when God doeth imparte the vitall or faming grace of Christ unto all that are sapable thereof. And secondlie, as meanes conditionall which God requireth in them unto whom he imparteth grace. And in another place: b It is a braunch of beleefe, that Sacramentes are in their b Ibi.pa. 1330 place no leffe required, then beleefe it felfe. For when our Lord & Saviour promiseth eternall life, is it any otherwise then as hee promiled restitution of health onto Naaman the Sirian, namely with this condition, washe and be cleane. And in another place you fav. that both the Worde and Sacraments have generative force and c ib.pag. 105. wirtue. By which your wordes we are greatlie amazed, that our Church hath left out in her creede; and the Reverend Fathers haue not taught vs, that which is (as you fay) the chiefest force and virtue of the Sacraments. Where finde you that God ordained the Sacramentes to tell vs when God giveth grace, and that they are meanes conditionall, and as necessarie as faith? Teach

tisme, &c. And for that we are verievnperfect of our selves, and

pag tal.

vs we pray you by holy scripture these three chief virtues of the Sacraments. The furthest that they say (as we gather) is to make them seales of assurance, by which the spirit worketh invisible to the part of a part

to itrengthen our faith; and they feeme to square their faith by holy scripture: which proposed the descripture which proposed the descripture way of instifying, & a paterne to all the children of God, namelie; that he was first instified by faith, and after receaued the Sacrament as a signe to bee a

d Rom.4.1.23-

e ibid.ver. 10.11

feale of the righteousnesse of his faith. Shew therefore whether we ought not to goe further then our church or holy scripture. vnlesse we will leave out the cheesest virtue of the Sacramentes. Moreover they Lay the grace of God is not in the visible signes: you fay they are meanes codicionall, they fay that grace (which they cal this marvelous consunction and incorporation) is first begon and wrought by faith, and afterwarde is affured and increaled by the Sacramentes: you fay, the facraments have the generatiue force and virtue as well as the worde. They fay, that the Substance of all Sacramentes is the worde, &c. and that the Sacraments are the feales affixed to the fame; which being borowed fró the Apostle out of the former recited place, Rom. 4. doeth argue that the necessitie of the sacraments, is not comparable to that of faith. For by this he proueth Abraham to be instified by faith without workes, because he first was instified by faith before he receased the Sacrament, and that the Sacrament was but a figne and seale of his faith; so that he excludeth the Sacrament as it is a worke, and as you call it a a morall inftrument of falvation from all copertenership with faith in the matter of iustification. You make it a meanes condicionall, and no leffe required then faith it selfe, and of as absolute necessitie as that to Naaman: wash and be cleane. These things, good Mai. Hoo.we can not reconcile, and therefore we are futors vnto you to ayde vs in the fame, and to make your minde to appeare not to ouerturne the fayth of our church: and heerein to tell vs where you finde, that the grace of God is tyed to anie time, as namelie the time of the Sacramentes: or whether the Sacramentes teach vs some other time; and whether the codition of Sacraments make not

Booke 5. pag. 128. not for the additament of workes vnto fayth, in that which the English church holdeth to bee onelie & properlie of faith. And lastly whether such speaches be not meerelie popish & accursed mixture of humane follie, giuing a further grace to the blessed Sacraments then God hath ordayned; and heerein explane vnto vs, whether a man dying without faith, & yet receaueth the Sacraments, can be saued; or that a man hauing faith, & neuer any sacrament, may not be saued; or whether anie cabe saued; if the condition of salvation be the vpright and perfect performance of all moral dueties which God requireth expressie in his word.

a Artic. 26. De vi institutionum divinarum

the malice of wicked me which are over the administration of the Sacraments, the effect of the things ordayned by Christ is not taken away, or the grace of Gods giftes diminished, as touching them which recease by faith and orderlie the things offered vato them. which for the institution of Christ and his promise, are effectuall, although they be administred by evill men. Wherevoon the Reverend Fathers define a Sacrament to bee hareverend and holy misterie ordayned of God: wherein hee by his holy worde and promise doth both stirre upof pratise the faith of his people, and by the operation of the holy ghost, increase his grace in them. Go. And of the intention of the church, they say: This is the verie dungeon of incertaintie. The heart of ma

is unsearcheable, if we stay uppon the intention of

e Bb. Iewell replic. to Hard. Artic. 1. pag-34

Thom. Bb. of

Lincolne ferm.

1. vpon 1. Cor.

amortall man; we may stande in doubt of our own baptisme. You seeme to speake otherwise where you say: d Weemust note that in as much as Sacraments are actions religious and mistical, which nature they have not unlesse they proceed fro a serious meaning, and what enerie mans private minde is, as we can not know, so neither are we bounde to examine; therefore alwayes in these cases the knowen intent of the church generally doeth suffice; and where the contrarie is not manifest, we must presume that he which outwardlie doeth the worke, bath inwardlie the purpose of the church of God. Heere we desire to be instructed how these

The Church of England affirmeth, that a By 15 of Christer

Booke 5.

10

two opinions can stande togither. The one which sayeth the Sacraments are effectuall through the institution of Christ and his promise; the other which tyeth it to the good meaninge of the Priest or of the Church. Againe, the one faieth the intention of the Church is the verie dungeon of incertaintie; to make vs doubt of our Baptisme: the other, that the Sacraments have not the nature to be religious and misticall, without a serious meaning that is the intent of the church. These things we pray you to reconcile, and therewithall to shew vs howe the intent of the church can give them their nature to beactions religious & misticall, and yet our reverend Fathers say they bee holy misteries ordayned of God. Resolue therefore whether the virtue of the facrament depende upon the institution and promise of God, or vpon the good meaning of the Priest or of the Church; or vpon both: and whether they cannot have the nature of religious actions and misticall without the intent of the Priest or of the Church; and so whether the church may ordaine a misterie; or that the misteries ordained of Gop have not their nature and forme with the presupposed intent of the Church. Whether God in ordayning these misteries were holpe by the serious meaning of the church, or did except that they should not bee misteries, without the liking and allowing of the church, by their good meaning. And lastlie, whether your affertion be not meere poperie, a humane invention, and an inducement vnto that (which is called fides implicita) that it should suffice a man to believe as the church beleeueth, &c. And herewithall shew vs what comforte we can haue in the vie of the Sacramentes, if they can not be actions religious and misticall, vnlesse they proceede from the intent and purpose of the church, beeing (as our Reverend Fathers esteeme) the verie dungeon of vncertaintie.

f Baptisme.

The Church of Englande professeth, That 16 Necessitie 2 Baptisme is a signe of regeneration, by whiche as by an instrument, they which rightlie recease baptisme, are ingrafted into the Church: the promises of remission of sinnes and of our adoption to bee the children of God by the holy spirit, are visibly sealed, our faith is confirmed, and by the force of the

a Artic 27. de Baptismo.

salling

& Bb. Iewell defen. of Apol. 2. part pag. 150.

e Bb. Babingt. vpon Gen.ca. 17.verf. 12.

This is disputed at large by Bb. Bab.in Gen. ca. 27. verf. 1 2.

calling upon the name of God, grace is increased. Which the Reverend Fathers of our church doe expound in this lense: bThe children of the faithful are borne boly, and notwithstanding by nature they be the children of anger, yet by Gods free election, they be pure & holy. This is Saint Paules vndoubted doctrine; which notwithstading, he neuer despised the Sacraments of Christ. And that A man may stands in the state of siluation & out of all dannger of damnation before he be baptized. And the contrarie to this they call dearfull do-Arine, iniurious to thou lands of poore infants, & blasphemous against the bottomlesse mercie of a fweet and tender Father, who hath faide: I will be thy God and thy childes, not adding anie condition of baptisme

if it can not be had as it ought: and heerevpon they affirme that Sacraments make not the couenantes, but only seale them, and that God hath not thus inthralled his grace (that there is fuch necessitie, that either women or all sortes of persons should dispense the holy misteries, to the ende that no poore creature might be cast away for wante of it) nor taught his church in his worde, but quite contrarie, as we see by telling Abraham his conenant reached to his feede, and by differring the feale of the fame; to witt, circumcision to the eight day. You Maister Hoo. speake to our understanding a farre differing language:namely, Predestination bringeth not to life, without the grace of exter- a Booke 5. nall vocation wherein our baptisme is implyed. For as wee are not naturallie men without birth; fo neither are we christian men in the sie of the church of God but by new birth. nor according to the ordinarie course of dinine dispensation, new borne, but by that baptisme which both declareth and maketh vs christians in which refeet we holde it to bee the doore of our actuall entrance into Gods bouse, the first apparant beginning of life, a seale perhaps to the grace of election before receaved, but to our fanctification beere a stepp that hath not any before it. And againe: bThe fruit of Bap- b Booke s. tifme dependeth onely upon the covenant whiche God hath made; that God by covenant requiresh of the elder forte fayth and Bapsi me,

c Thi pag. 135

tisme, in childre the sacrament of Baptisme alone. And in another place: We have for baptisme no day sett as the Iewes had for circumcision, neither have wee by the lawe of God, but onely by the churches discretion, a place thereunto appointed. Baptisme therfore even in the meaning of the lawe of Christ, belangeth unto infantes capable thereof, from the verie instant of their birth, which if they have not how seener, rather then loose it by being put of, because the time, the place, or some such like circumstance, doth not folemnly enough concurre, the church as much as in her lyeth, wilfullie casteth away their soules . Heere are we at our wittes ende, not knowing what to beleeve. For if our English confession bee true that baptisme is a signe of regeneration, and visibly sealeth our remission of sinnes and adoption, and increaseth grace, &c. we know not what to make of that you fay: Baptisme to be the first apparant beginning of life, a seale perhaps of the grace of election, and that there is no stepp of sanctification before Baptisme. And againe, if it be true (as you say) Predestination bringeth not life without the grace of externall vocation, wherein baptisme is implyed; what shall we thinke of that our Reverend Fathers fay: A man by Gods free election is holy and pure; and that before Baptisme a man may stande in the state of salvation. And if our churches doctrine be true; that baptisme is a seale of remission of tinnes, and that the Sacramentes make not the couenantes but are seales of the covenantes, howe can yours bee true that by couenant God requireth fayth and baptisme in the elder, and baptisme alone in children. Is baptisme parte of the couenant, and more then a seale? And seeing our Reverend Fathers affirme that God and well ordered churches forbidd baptisme by women, and that God hath not inthralled his church to fuch vrgent necessitie, and that such doctrine is fearfull, iniurious, and blasphemous, and our sweete and tender Father hath faide: I will be thy God and thy childes, not adding anic condition of baptisme, if it cannot be had as it ought. How can it bee well in you to make it a bloodie and wilfull casting away of foules, if the church provide not that children haue baptisme howfoeuer. And heere we pray you to teach vs whether the comenant and Sacramentes in the Gospell bee not the same in nature,

ture, virtue and substance that they were vnder the lawe, or that our Sacramentes have more necessitie. And if so, why our Reverend Fathers disavow the necessitie of Baptiline, to be done anie other wife then as it ought, because God appointed circumcisió till the eight day, is there a further grace in our sacramets, or have they not somewhat in the worke wrought, whiche the Sacramentes of the law had not: We pray you therefore, plainelie and distinctlie to shew vs your minde; whether righteonsnes cometh by baptisme, or by faith. And seeing notwithstanding all these harde and peremptorie speaches, you sometimes saye, that a grace is not absolutelie tyed to sacramentes : and the necessi- a Pag. 134 tie of receaving not so absolute, as that of administring the Sacramentes. Wee would faine knowe what you holde and affirme: what manner of necessitie you meane. For if grace be not abso-Jutelie tyed vnto Sacraments, and necessitie of receaving Sacraments not absolute; we knowe not what should make necessitie of administring absolute, but that as our Reverend Fathers fav. we are not enthralled to appoint or fuffer it to bee done by Women or lay persons, if it cannot be had as it ought: and if Gop hane not added any fuch condition of baptisme, where borrowed you that distinction? Wee can not tell where to finde you, or how to take your meaning, or at the least that your minde concurreth with the doctrine of the church of Englande: we expect therefore and pray you to declare faithfullie these thinges vnto vs.

Artic. 28. De cona Domini.

6 Th. Bb. of Lin. vpon i Cor. 10 e Nowel.Catechif. d Prefat. & protestatio Nic. Rid. habit. 20. April. in fcol. pub. Oxó. anno 1555 Read alfo booke of Mart.pag. 1327. Print. 1 576.

The Church of Englande pronounceth, that 17 of Tran-The Transubstantiation of the bread and Wine substantiation. in the Eucharist, can not bee proued by the sacred Scripture, but is against playne wordes of Scripture, overturneth the nature of the facrament, & bath gine occasion of many superstitions. And for this cause our Reverend Fathers eall it: b A monstrous & blasphemous doctrine: bringing in doubt the trueth of Christs body. d Contrarie to Christes wordes, sayinge: It is expedient that I goe awaye, Job. 16.7. and to that of Peter: Whom the heavens must

e Booke 5.

must contayne untill the time that all things bee restored, Act. 3. 21. disagreeing from the articles of faith , Hee ascended into heaven, fitteth at the right hande of God the Father, &c. making voyde the institution of Christ, which is to continue till he come, &c. casting boly things to prophane, as whoremongers, murderers, &c. mife and dogges to recease the true reall body of Christ causing most cruell eating of mans fleshe, and manie monstrons miracles: accidentes without subjectes: the body of Christ Without his qualities and true manner of a bodye: nourishinge the Marcionist to beleeve the phantasticall body of Christ, and Eutichians confounding the two natures of Christ, and therefore they Which affirme transubstantiation are indeed right Sacramentaries and Capernaites. In regarde whereof we intreate you Mai. Hoo. to make a fitt construction of your wordes, were you fay: e Sith. We all agree that by the factament, Christ doeth reallie and truelie in us performe his promife: why doe we vainely trouble our felnes with fo fearce contentions. Whether by consubstantiation or els by transubstatiation the facrament it felfe be first possessed withchrift. or no: a thing which no way can eyther further or hinder us howfouer it ft ande because our participation of Christ in the Sacraments. depedeth on the cooperatio of his omnipotent power, which maketh st his body and blood unto us, whether with shange or without alzeration of the element, such as they imagine, we neede not greatlie to care nor inquire after. In all which words you feeme to make light of the doctrine of transubstantiation, as a matter not to be Stoode vpon or to bee contended for, cared for or enquired into: Which maketh vs to marvell howe our Church and Reverende Fathers have all this time palled, bene deceaued. What should cause them to affirme it to bee a thing contrarie to the playne wordes of scripture, ouerturning the nature of the Sacrament, to call it monstrous doctrine: why so manie reverend Fathers, as Crammer, Ridley, Hooper, Latimer, Rogers, Bradford, &c. hane ginen their lines in Witnes against it, if it bee a thinge that neither furthereth nor hindreth, a thing not to bee cared for, nor enquired after? And heere we pray you ingeniously to shew whether your meaning bee to bring that fide into credit by foftening

the odiousnes of their heresie, and our side into suspition of peeuilhnes, for standing vpon trifles; which the rather we defire to be resolued in, because else where you call the enemies to Tran-Substantiation & Sacramentaries, and b labour to shew a certayne 4 pag. 178. vbiquitie of Christes manhoode and of his bodie, and of his foule, which feemeth to vs that you would give a gentle construction of Popish opinions, and privile robbe the trueth of our English creede of her due estimation. If you call our Reverend Fathers Sacramentaries for oppugning transubst. and they againe call the maintayners of it right Sacramentaries and Capernaites (if you have given as good testimonie of faithfulnes as they) whom shall wee beleeve? are you not contradictorie: and may we thinke you can favour that fide; your wordes doe beate downe; thew vs then wee pray you how thuch great fauours doe not prejudice the doctrine of the church of Englande, or not condemne those millions of learned draines and blessed Martirs of extreme follie, who have died for the same; and that God should reveale to you onely that it was for that which neither furthered nor hurteth? Lastly instruct vs whether the institution of the Sacrament by Christ, saying: this is my bodie: doe this in remembrance of mee, bee not the true and right making of it Christes bodie and blood vnto vs: and vppon what ground of Scripture it may bee proued, that the cooperation of his omnipotent power doeth make it his bodie and blood vnto vs, and in what sense: And whether such phrases doe not helpe the Popish argument of Gods power which they commonly vie to approue their transubstantiation.

There be also in your book diners Theoremes not so familiar 18 of species to vs common Christians, neither doe we perceaue them in the time doctrine, English Creede; neither in the reading of the holy writinges of God. Wee pray you therefore declare vnto vs by what spirit or worde you teach them vnto vs. what foundation they have in holie writt: and how they pertaine to the faith or discipline of the English church? Such as are thefe. 4 Tenne, the number of a Booke 5. natures perfections. b Angels perpetuitie: the band that draweth b pag. 109. out celestial motion. Church attyre with vs linely resembleth c pag. 614

d pag.67.

e pag.72.

£p2.154.155

g pag. 160.

h pag 162. lin 27. i pag 261. the glorie of Saints in heaven. Daylie bruses: spirituall promotions of to take by often falling. Multiplied petitions of worldly things, a kinde of heavenly fraud to take the soules of men as with certaine baytes. In Baptisme God doeth bestow presently remission of sinnes, and the holy Ghost, binding also himselfe to adde in

fion of sinnes, and the holy Ghost, binding also himselfe to adde in processe of time, what grace soener shalbe further necessarie, for the attaynement of enertasting life. B. The signe of the Crosse (as wee

vse it) is in some sorte a meane to worke our preservation from reproch, and h Christes marke. Assuredly who soener doeth

well observe how much all inferior things depende upon the orderlie courses and motions of those greater orbs, will hardely indge it meete or good, that the Angells assisting them, should bee driven

meete or good, that the Angells assisting them, should bee driven to betake them selves unto other stations, although by nature they were not tyed where now they are, but had charge also elsewhere:

as long as their absence from beneath might but tollerablie be supplied, & by descending their roomes about should become vacans:

and such like, whereof your writinge is not a little stored; but shewe us onely concerning these, that if

all Angells be ministring spirits, Sent forth to mi-

mister for their sakes which shall bee heyres of salvation (as Gods spirit testifyeth) where is it revey-

led, that they attende uppon the celestiall orbes, or that their perpermitte is the hande that draweth out celestiall motion; and if they doe, whether it be not sinne in them, to leave their naturalli

charge, and to attende upon that whiche they are not tyed unto? Doe you not meane the Angells which kept not their first estate but left their own

habitation whom God hath referved in everla-

sting chaynes under darkenes unto the judgement of the great day? or would you have the elect Angells to bee like unto the Angell of the bottomlesse pitt, whose name is Abbaddon? When, where, or how did Christ rell thee that the signe of the crosse (as we vie it) is the marke of Christ, and preserveth from reprochand what warrant have you of present grace in the verie worke wrought of Baptistie; did you see in the mountaine of God the patterne of that heavenlie fraude which you say is to catch men

by

i Heb. 2. 14.

by multiplied petitions of worldlie thinges? And what bee the bruses and falls that spirituall promotions ordayned by Christ, doe or can take? And howe doeth it appeare in nature, or from the Godof nature; that ten is the number of natures perfections?

b I. Whitg. pag. 300. Bb. Iewel. defen. of Apol. 2. part,pag. 149. Read any English writer defending the church of England: & namely Fulke against Stapl. fortress. pag.71. Read Apolog. Angli

The Reverend Fathers of our Church call Mr 19 of Calvin Calvin one of the best writers: A reverend Fa- and the reforther, & a worthie orn. ment of the church of God, not onelie defending the same doctrine, but also discharging him of slanderous reportes wrongfullie layed against him, knowing that by defaming the persons of christians, and especiallie of Ministers, the Devill of olde time laboured to ouerthrowe the Gospell of Christ. Howe greatlie all christian churches are to prayle God for thar mans faithfull labours, and how instantlie therefore all fortes of papiftes have and doe indevour

med churches.

and strive to diminish his creditt, all the christian worlde most aboundlie both by word and by writing, doe testifie. Wherefore we wonder not a little. What moved you to make choyle of that worthie pillar of the church aboue all other, to traduce him and to make him a spectacle before all christians. Wherefore wee craue your favour that with trueth and patience you would anfwere our doubtes & scruples which by the preface of your first booke you have made in vs concerning him. And firste, what Maister Calvin hath done against our Church, that you should fingle him out as an adversarie: Which of our Reverend Fathers of this lande hath wished you therevnto; or else tell vs plainlie whether our adversaries (in whose mouthes you are a most invincible champion) haue not provoked you against him? And open vnto vs without deceite ingenuously, whether all the learned men of our countrie, who have writte and disputed for discipline, be not to base and meane persons, that on them onely to mightie a man should spend his sharpe arrowes and coales of Juniper? but you will passe ouer the Seas, and search the sepulthers of the straungers, and finding no man aliue worthie your combat, you call Maister Calvin out of his sweete bedd of rest, and

declare vitto vs, what moved that Reverend and learned man Mai.D. Whitgeeft to spende so manie a leaves to shewe that the partes of Discipline might be altered by the civil Magistrate, as serving more sitlie for the Apostles time, and the time of persecution, then for vs, having the Magistrate to friende, and living in peace and quietnes. If Maister Calvin (as the b true storie reporteth) obtained the consent of the townes men of

a D. White.

b T. Beza in vita Calvin.

Geneva, not onelie by demonstration out of the holy scriptures, but also by shewing the minde of verie learned men of his age, out of their writings, as of Oecolampadim, Swinglins, Suychim, Philip, Bucer, Capito and Miconius, who was the founder of the discipline? Where had these notable men their iudgement? Did he teach them? or write before them? Was it not one founder even the Lorde Christe, the author and builder of his Church, who raised vp divers men in divers places, and taught them by the same spirit out of the same holie scripture, the same doctrine and commaundement of trueth and righteousnes? Shew vs also we pray you before our God which searcheth the heart, when ther

ther we have not just cause to judge, that in penning this storie, you make of Calvin, your purpose were not to deceaue your reader by an artificiall entwining of some part of the trueth with the hollow & glittering threed of your owne wittie coniectures and peremptorie censures; as namelie when you beginne to tell of the repentance of the people of Genevah, irefullie champing pag. g. 6. ypon the bitt: you suddenlie fall into a discourse of the rising vp of those reformed churches; you besprinckle them with likelihood of defire of glorie of their owne enterprises; you blame the that in that troublesome time they wanted common coference, and that afterwardes least they should derogate from their credite, they became euer after resolute to maintayne that whiche they had done, and so leaving the churches all bespotted with leuitie and selfepride, and eased of all conscience and honestie: you closelie thrust in Calvin with this worde, therefore: that he and his affociates (as parteners of the same selfe weening) stiffelie refusing to administer the holie Communion, were banished the towne. After speaking of his restoring and reestablishing of Discipline, you have in one place, Manythings might lead them pag. 7.8. Oc. And in other place, He rightelie confidered, Oc. This devile I fee not howe the wifest, &c. And again: This forte it may be, &c. Therefore we pray you to teach vs how such might lead & may bees, such entring into his thought and crosse commending that for his divise which he simply propounded as out of the Scriptures of God; may not drop into your readers heart fuch vnheeded impressions, as may make him highly admire R. H. great gravitie and judicious wifedome and J. Calvins carnall pollicie, fine hipocrifie and peremptorie follie.

We befeech you also helpe vs in these things following. First The Bera is the true storie saith, Many being at the first gently admonished, vit. Calvini. for many vnworthy acts, and for old enmitte among the chiefe families, and the stubberne being more sharpely reproued; the citie was divided by the faction of certay ne private men, Farellus and Calvin with Coraldus, openly protested that they could not orderly celebrate the Lordes Supper vnto men so much at discorde. At which time also betwixt the Church at Barne and

Gene-

Genevah was difference in certayne rires, which while they were aboute to fett in order by a Synod furnmoned for that purpose;

the chief Magistrates for that yeare of Genevah, being the Captaynes of the factions and discorde, assembling the people brought the matter to this ende; that these three faithfull seruants of God were commanded to depart the towne within two dayes. And when these Officers, like vnto filthy froth, were cast out (the one accused of seditio going about to escape through a window, falling downe headlong, by the peafe of his bodie, was so hurte that within few dayes hee dyed: another for murther was put to death, and the two other being accused for ill gouern ment in a certaine embassage, forsooke the cuntrie, and were condemned being absent; the Citie then began to seeke againe for their Farellus and Calvin. You fay when these things began to bee put in vre; the people began to repent them of that they had done; the rather for that they grew by meanes of this innovation into diflike with some Churches neere about them, &c. and so Calvin and his affociates (as is afore said) were banished, and that after the places of one or two of their Ministers beeing fallen voyde, they are importunate to obtayne Calvin agayne, and that they were content the other two should enjoy their exile. The contradiction of these two stories we pray you to reconcile, eyther by the 24.epist. which you cite, or by anie true narration whatfoeuer. First shew vs that the dislike of other churches was for discipline, and that for that dislike the towne was the rather mooued against Calvin. And whether rather these churches did not make intercession by the decree of a Synode for Calvin to the Genevians. Secondlie, whether those Sindickes being wicked and taken away by the righteons judgmentes of almightie God, the people were not made free from the former factions: and whether that therepon the Lord moouing their mindes, they remembred not the injuries done to thole two good Pastors. And shewe vs by cleare demonstration they fought not as well for Farellis as for Calvin. And heero also without your helpe, weeknowe not what construction to make of your descanting on the Ministers, assuring Calvin of their

PAS-5-6-7

their allegeance, his returning as it had bene another Tullie, and the affencing of the people with no leffe alacritic of minde then cities vnable to holde outlonger. Are thefe anie other but bitter [kornes and despitefull fictions? And to omitt many things (because this is a personal cause) we doe most hartilie begge at your handes to aunswere vs truelie and faithfullie, whether you thinke Maister Calvin to have bene an honest truehearted christian, fearing God, and not an imposter and a deceaver of the people, or at the least you would have men so to esteeme of him. For howe can wee otherwise coniecture in that you blame him more for the countenancing of discipline beeing established, pag. 10.13. then for establishing of it, afterming with no small incitements of cunning infinuations, that because hee by wisedome and not by the word of God, faw that discipline requisite for that people, hee imployed all his witt by lifting the very vtmost fentence and fillable of holy Scripture to confirme the same; and not to omit the leasts occasion in all his writinges following of extolling the vie and fingular necessitie thereof. If wee may thus judge of his faithfulnelle in promoting of discipline, what may wee suspect of his sincere dealing in the doctrine? About rites (as the ministring with common bread) you acknowledge that he would not stande with the Church, to make trouble for a thinge indifferent, and why if he were a good man, should we

thinke that hee would professe it to bee trayterous

Epift. 165. cowardlines, not to dye a hundred times rather then

to suffer that to bee wickedly borne downe which hee very well knew to bee taken out of the word of God? Can you so farre make manifest eyther by good and just presumptions, or by playne and true storie, his deepe hipocrisie and arrogant pride; that euen against his owne conscience; hee woulde so earnestly striue and trouble the whole Church to maintaine a deuise of his owne? Wee pray you therefore to shewe vs sincerelie whether such insinuations bee charitable? and whether if you bee a friend to the Gospell, you make not a greater rent in Gods Church, by such arguments then if you medled not at all in the matter, but left it to men of more stayde and sounde discre-

discretion and of a more charitable and peaceable spirite. For if such bolde and bare affirmations may goe for payment, why may wee not as well heare and beleeve Maister Harding, which calles all the whole and pure doctrine beleeved and professed in England; A wicked new denise of Geneva. We desire you thera In his Epift. Bb. lewell fore in the name of our Lorde lefus Chrift, who shall judge all men at his coming and make manifest the intents & thoughts of the heart, to shew vnto vs without all artificiall glozing whether all this your treatise of Calvin, be not polished armour, and asharper raior, prepared for the vie and helpe of the enemies of the Gospell, and that it may not rather bee called a prejudiciall commentarie; and a Popish paraphrase; then a storie true plaine and without partialitie, and that men have not just cause to thinke the better of Maister Calvin and the cause of discipline. when they see so litle plaine and faithfull dealing in your writing. Reade therefore his preface before his comment on the Pfalmes, and Beza his storie of his life, and the French or any other stories or monuments of faithfull honest Christians and then aunswere faithfully the trueth and shewe your honest meaning.

Philosophe and Poperie

Our reverend Fathers a converting their ftudies fro schoole authors vnto the holy scriptures, and caufing others to do the like, brought many to be well leene in divinitie, and themselues and others well affected in Religion; and therefore constantlie affirme that b The heavenly doctrine of our Saniour Christ was so buried in the darkeneffe of schoole-learning, that no man tafted the fweetnes of it, which to be true that worthy man Martin Luther, through Gods goodnes to his Church finding by great experience in him felfe and others, is bolde to fay, a Theologia illa scholastica exulem nobis fecit veramo finceram theologiam. That schoole divinitie hath banished from vs the true & fincere divinitie. And againe, Totus Aristoteles ad Theologiam est tenebra ad

- D. Cranmer as Mr Fox writeth. booke of Mart. pag.
- b Tho. Bb. of Lincol. fer. so. vpon Rom. so. 16. pag. 7.
- Refponf. Ma Luth ad dialect Siluett. cont concluf, fextam.
- b Concluf. 50.

lucemi.

lucem. All Aristotle vnto divinitie is darkenes vnto light. Now in all your bookes, although we finde manie good things, many truethes and fine pointes bravelie handled, yet in all your difcourse, for the most parte, Aristotle the patriarch of Philosophers (with divers other humane writers) and the ingenuous Ichoolemen, almost in all pointes have some finger: Reason is Booke t. Prehighlie fett vp against holie scripture, and reading against prea_ face pag. 6. ching, the church of Rome favourablie admitted to bee of the house of God. Calvin with the reformed churches full of faults: & most of all they which indeuoured to be most removed from conformitie with the church of Rome: Almost all the principall pointes of our English creede, greatlie shaken and contradicted. If you doe not fincerelie, plainelie and truclie aunswere all these our necessarie doubtes and demandes; what shall we have cause to thinke of these your tedious and laborious writinges . Shall wee doe you wronge to suspect you as a privie and subtill enemie to the whole state of the Englishe Church, and that would haue men to deeme her Maiestie to haue done ill in abolishing the Romish religion, and banishing the Popes authoritie; and that you would bee glad to see the backesliding of all reformed churches to bee made conformable to that wicked synagogue of Rome: and shame and reproche to all faithfull Ministers. whom Go D hath rayled vp to reveale and beate downe Antichrist: and that you esteeme the preaching and writing of all the Reverend Fathers of our Church, and the bookes of holy scripture to bee at the least of no greater moment then Aristotle and the Schoolemen? Or else doe you meane to bring in a confusion of all thinges, to reconcile heaven and earth, and to make all religions equal! Will you bring vs to Atheisme, or to Poperie; or to prepare a plott for an Interim, that our streetes may runne with blood, when all religious shalbee tollerated, and one shall bearde and provoke another? Are there not examples sufficient of vnspeakeable massacres abroade; vnlesse wee should fett the fame home to our countrie, rejoycing under the bleffed vnitie of the Gospell of peace. Thinke you that the longe experience of Gods protection, in these golden dayes of quiet concorde, the

A CHRISTIAN LETTER

religious and peaceable heart of our deare soueraigne Ladie and Queene ELIZABETH, (for whose joyful preservation all good and christian minded English men, doe vnceasantlie pray) and the thousandes of faithfull subjectes, who have learned Christ vnder the shadowe of her most happie and honorable reigne; would euer give you thankes for such great service, or euer agree vnto fuch abhominations, if they should once beginne to espie such stratagemical operations to appeare in their effectes, and to shewe them selves directlie and openlie: We besech you therefore in the Name of IES VS Christ, and as you will aunfwere for the vse of those great giftes which God hath bestowed vpon you, that you woulde returne and pervie advisedlie all your five bookes, compare them with the articles of our profesfion fet out by publick authoritie, and with the workes Apologeticall & other authorised sermons & homilies of our church, and of the Reverend Fathers of our Lande, and with the holie booke of God, and all other the Queenes Maiesties proceedings: and then read and examine with an indifferent & equal minde a booke fert out in Latin called Querimonia Ecclefie, and an other in Englishe, late come abroade, speaking of Scotizing and Genevatifing, & Allobrogicall Discipline: and having maturelie with a ludicious coscience in the feare of God, pondered and waved them in the ballance of trueth and inflice, then tell vs roundlie and foothelie: That if the Reverende Fathers of our church, affifted with some of the approved divines of both Vniversies, did reade, peruse and examine your bookes, and those two other bookes, whether they would not judge in their conscience, and give sentence with their mouthes, that by those three writinges, the Church of Englande and all other christian Churches, are vndermined, and that they are verie notable bellowes (if Gods mercie stayed it not) to blowe the coales of sedition, and fierie civill warre betweene all chistian Churches; and to make all people, who reade them, to fall either flatly to Atheisme or backewarde to poperie, when they shall see all godlie Ministers and christian churches, by men of their owne side and profession, to be so openlie traduced and notoriouslie detected,

and all the articles of our Religion & many partes of our church government to be checked, blamed, or cotradicted. And might they not thinke that the Popes factors in Englande, have some intelligence with fuch writers? Or is that new found discipline fo neerlie feated with our English creed; that such expert archers

ayming at the one, must needes hit the other?

Our last scruple and demaund is this, seeing your bookes 21. The stile bee so long and tedious, in a stile not vsuall, and (as wee verelie thinke) the like harde to be found; farre differing from the fimplicitie of holie Scripture, and nothing after the frame of the writinges of the Reverend and learned Fathers of our church, as of Crammer, Ridley, Latimer, Tewell, Whit geeft, Fox, Fulke, &c. And that your Prefaces and discourses before you come to the question are so longe, & mingled with all kinde of matters and futes of learning and doctrine: whether your meaning bee to shewe your selfe to bee some rare Demosthenes, or extraordinarie Rabbi, or some great Pythagoras, that enjoyne your schollars or your adversaries to fine yeares filence, before they can be perfect in your meaning or able to replye:or that these men you write against, bee not sounde in matters of fayth; and therefore you handle all thinges, or elfe you had no better way to make doubtfull the chief groundes of our faith and religion, and that you would have men better seene in Philosophie and schoolemens divinitie, and namelie in Aristotle: or that you were a- Read book a. fearde, that if you had not handled it with fo grave, heroicall and loftie a maiestie, you should have bene reputed like some other man, and so your fame should have bene but small: or that you would wearie your adversarie with such thicke and continuall fallinge strokes, that hee should not bee able to stande before you to strike one blow against you, or that you would beare downe the cause with swelling wordes of vanitie, and cunningly framed fentences to blinde and, intangle the simple; or that you would shew your felfe another Aristotle by a certaine metaphificall and crupticall method to bring men into a maze, that they should rather wonder at your learning, the be able to vinderstand what you teach in your writinge. Wee which

& maner of writing.

Rande for the defence of our English church highly commend R. H. bookes, wee alleadge your opinions as well as wee can to stop the mouthes of foolith carpers: Wee commend your books as very excellent and learnedly penned, and not to be answered; then they promptly as ke your reasons and require of vs to shew by what arguments you maintaine those affertions: then returne wee to your bookes; wee feeke and beate our braynes, but are hardely able, by our meane capacitie, to gather any thinge : but as a man a farre of beholding a bryer tree; all blowen ouer with his flowers, with great defire approacheth neere vnto it, and findeth himselfe deceaved; so the delight of reading your booke is meruelous great, but the fruit thereof (howfoeuer it come to passe) vnto vs that search and examine it, is far vnlike the goodlie shew and appearance. In the booke of that most learned and reuerend Father D. Withgift: wee finde the question judicially fett downe, his aunswere to the matter in question sensible, his reasons eyther from holy scripture, from Fathers or new writers. without all circumferences and crooked windings, directly applied, so as such poore men as wee be may beare away what hee Taith and what hee intendeth: but in your writing wee are mightely incombred; wee walke as in a labyrinth, and are fuddenlie ouerwhelmed as in the deepe fea: sometime it seemeth to vs that wee fee great florithing of warlike and glittering weapons and to heare the lowde outcryes and noyce of them which pursue their enemies in battell, thundring, gunshott, rossing of ipeares, and ratling of harnelle; yet cannot we perfectly perceaue any thinge almost rightly to touch the adversarie pretended: but rather (as in our demandes before wee verely thinke doeth manifestly appeare) most heavie stroakes, poyloned pellettes. and dangerous pushes of the pikes, against the Ierusalem of God, the holy Christian church of Englande, whom you would seeme to defende. Wee desire you therefore with all instancie. that you would not denie vs three things. First to shewe vnto vs what arguments you have alleadged which are materiall and of waight, which are not to bee found in the auniwere of that seuerend Father vnto Maister Carthwright; and herein plainly to

DIRECTED VNTO M' HOO.

to de clare which be your arguments or direct aunswers, which are neither fine and close Ironies, or blustring bitter scoffes, begging of the question, or peremptorie affirmations, and how wee may knowe what is the state of the question, and when you are in or out, and what you holde in your conscience to bee the trueth in Gods fight: howe great and large your fine bookes would bee, if you had vied reasonable, intelligible and logicall argumentes onely as other writers and disputers doe, and had left out all needlesse wittie gloses and Rhetoricall shadowes in preambles, discourses, digressions, amplifications, and had kept your selfe out of the common tayle of sophisticall elenches, and impertinent outleapes, and had followed S. Peters prescript, in 1 Pet.3-15.16 a meeke, reuerend and direct apollogie and defense proceeding from a good conscience. Secondly, that if you sett foorth your other bookes which are promised, you would bee more playne and sensible; and followe the vsuall language and stile of other learned men and English writers; leaving out vnnecessarie long discourses, and common places, sett out your reasons in playne termes and wordes of finceritie, without these hugie embossements or stuffed bumbasing, that poore playne men, which cannot skill of such hidden misteries, may perceaue and learne something by your great travailes. Thirdly that you would bee carefull not to corrupt the English creede and pure doctrine (whervnto you have fubicribed) either by philosophie or vaine deceate of ichoolemens newborne divinitie, or by any other beggerly rudiments of this worlde, nor fett these Churches by the eares with these closely carried and daintie infinuations, and that through defire of vayne glorie you prouoke not your brethren, and helpe the common and Iworne enemie, which fighteth against God, against Christes church, against our peaceable cuntrie, and against our religious, godly and christian Princesse. And especially that you beware in the cause of supremacie to giue your lawfull foueraigne her right and full due, and not fo to make the Church of Rome of the familie of Christ IESVS, that you lift vppe the sonne of pride the blasphemous tyrant sar. contr. Be.
the Pope into that hie chayre of pestilence to bee Christes vicar zam cap. 2. vppon

Pag 57.

nos Deus.

Ipli of mater vpon earth, and ministerial head of his vniuerfall Church. nostra in qua For as there is one that saith the church of Rome is Mater regenerauit mostra, our mother: So if you should goe but one step further. we know not what injurie may be done to her Maiesties rightfull Imperial Crowne and dignitie. And lastely, that you remember him which is hie and excellent, the king of all glorie, and Lord of all power, that you please not man to displease God. & feeking your felf you for fake not your own mercie.

a Prov. 13.10.

b Cap. 11.2.

c Dent. 32.356

d Pial. 105.15

e Pfal. 1.6.

You knowe that it is written. a Only by pride doth man make contention , but with the well advised is Wisedome. And b when pride commeth, then Shame commeth, but with the lowlie is wifedome. You know also who hath saide: "Vengeaunce is mine, orc. And againe. d Touch not mine anointed, and doe my Prophetes no harme. And againe "The Lord knoweth the way of the righte-

ous, and the way of the wicked hall perif.

The purpole of this letter.

Now in all these things good Maifter Hoo. though wee thus write, we doe not take vpon vs to censure your bookes ineither rashly to judge of you for them, but because wee bee all children borne in this Church, and every child louing his mother, is iclous over that which feemeth difgracefull to his mother? and all Christians are exhorted to f contende earnestly for the faith which was once ginen to f Ind. verf. 3. the faints : and he that toucheth our faith toucheth the apple of our eye; Wee could not but vtter our inwarde greefe, and yet in as charitable manner, as the cause in hande would fuffer, (for is it not a great matter when you feeme to vs to make a wide open breach in the church, and to stayne the pure doctrine of faith) wee feeke that the trueth bee not darkened or defaced; and that you by wife, playne and honest resolution vnto these our doubtes and demandes, may approve your felfe as the faithfull and fincere servant of lesus Christ. If then in all these our demaundes and requestes, you doe louingly and faithfully satisfie vs your native countrymen, who have sucked out the fingere milke of the Gospell, by the doctrine in England profelled professed, published and preached, by sermons, apologies, articles and reading of holy scripture even now these 40. yeares; (for whiche wee are not able to render fufficient prayle and thankes to our most mercifull Father in IESVS Christ, and namely for that worthie instrument of our 10y, that blessed Haleyon and Christian Deborah, his announted hande-mayde our soueraigne Ladie and Queene Elizabeth, whom the sunne of righteoulnes hath rayled vpp to still the raging streames and roaring waves of Gods enemies, even the curfed Cananites of Romith Babilon, whose peaceable and florishing raigne wee most humbly pray the mightie God of heauen, the Father of our Lord Iefus Christ, still to continue in joy and honour) if indeede you aunswer our defire in loue and faithfulnesse, we shall have good cause to commende well of your sincere meaning, we shalbe beholdinge vnto you for your godly zeale in defending our church, and give vnto you your condigne praise in all places, for your true and vpright dealing, and pray earnestlie vnto God for you, that fuch excellent giftes and graces, which he hath vouchased vnto you aboue many, may be alway wisely imployed, to the aduancing of the glorie of the most high God, and of his most glorious Sonne Iesus Christ our Lorde, to the furtherance of the prosperous wealth of his holy Church, the fruitfull service of your soueraigne Prince and native countrie, and to your owne inward comfort, and vndeceavable joy

of conscience, in and through Iesus Christ our blessed Lorde and Saviour, to whom bee all praise and glorie in his Church and in all places of the world for euer,

Amen.

G

Faultes

PIRECEED VINTO ME 1500 recently, published and preached, by fering seles and reading of hely knietere cuen no (for thele we see not to be to the Faultes to be corrected, Folio 3 lin 31. read favoring.
Fol. 11. lin. 2 read pearcing.
Idem lin. 30. read helped. Fol 18.lin. 28. for fonne, read fame. Fol. 19 lin 30. read professed. Fol 22 lin ult. then, read them. Fol. 34. lin. penult. read ingenuously.
Fol. 35. lin. 14. read such.
Fol. 37. lin. 19. take away the puncte.
Fol. 40. lin. 13. after ablent put a parenthesis thus.) ding out church, and glud vist you rott places, for your true and their he willing and hear are vinco Gold for you, that fire to allent with and he brills were challed vortal vers aby us more to impleyed, telependancing of the distriction and of the most glorious Some lefts Chil fund tance of the ord begins weath of the fruitfull femice of your forcesing Prince and Search wat owne inward confort, and valleded of confeience, in and theraph folia bleffed Lord and Leitelle, to hom best all crafte and clouie in his Church and in all places of the d for curry

